

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHARLES A. EDWARDS,

Plaintiff,

v.

D. SMITH, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 1:20-cv-01822 JLT GSA (PC)

ORDER REFERRING SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE
STANLEY A. BOONE

ORDER DIRECTING SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD **SEPTEMBER
8, 2025, @ 11:00 a.m.** VIA ZOOM
VIDEOCONFERENCING

PARTIES' CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE STATEMENTS DUE
AUGUST 29, 2025

The parties have consented to participating in a settlement conference. See ECF Nos. 39, 43. Therefore, the matter will temporarily be referred to a different Magistrate Judge who will preside over it. Accordingly, the parties shall take note of the following.

This matter will be temporarily referred to Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone for the sole purpose of conducting the settlement conference. The conference will take place via video on the Zoom videoconferencing application, on **September 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** The Court will issue the appropriate appearance writ in due course.

Counsel for Defendants shall contact Courtroom Deputy Jan Nguyen at (559) 499-5672 or JNguyen@caed.uscourts.gov for the video and dial-in information, including any necessary

1 passcodes, for all parties. Counsel for Defendants is also required to arrange for Plaintiff's
2 participation by contacting the Litigation Coordinator at the institution where Plaintiff is housed
3 and providing the necessary Zoom contact information.

4 Prior to the conference date, the parties shall each submit a confidential settlement
5 conference statement to Magistrate Judge Boone, as described below, to **arrive** by **August 29,**
6 **2025**, which is seven business days¹ prior to the conference.

7 The Court puts the parties on notice that if Plaintiff has any outstanding criminal
8 restitution obligation, fines and/or penalties, these settlement negotiations shall not be geared
9 towards what the restitution obligation is, but what the value of the case itself is to each side,
10 irrespective of any outstanding restitution obligation.

11 Defendants shall be prepared to negotiate the merits of the case and offer more than a waiver
12 of costs as a reasonable compromise to settle the case. The parties are also informed that an offer
13 of dismissal in exchange for a waiver of costs is not considered good faith settlement negotiations.

14 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

15 1. This matter is TEMPORARILY REFERRED to United States Magistrate Judge
16 Stanley A. Boone for the sole purpose of presiding over the settlement conference referenced
17 herein;

18 2. The settlement conference before Judge Boone shall take place via video on the Zoom
19 videoconferencing application on **September 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**;

20 3. A representative with full and unlimited authority to negotiate and enter into a binding
21 settlement shall attend via the Zoom videoconferencing application;

22 4. Those in attendance must be prepared to discuss the claims, defenses and damages.
23 The failure or refusal of any counsel, party or authorized person subject to this order to appear in
24 person may result in the cancellation of the conference and the imposition of sanctions. The
25 manner of Plaintiff's video appearance at the conference is within the discretion of CDCR.

26
27 ¹ Monday, September 1, 2025, which is seven calendar days before the September 8, 2025,
28 conference, and which would normally be the date that the parties' confidential settlement
statements would be due, is Labor Day, which is a legal holiday. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a)(6)(A).

1 5. Defendants shall provide a confidential settlement statement to the following e-mail
2 address: **saborders@caed.uscourts.gov**. Plaintiff shall mail his confidential settlement
3 statement to U.S. District Court, 2500 Tulare Street, Fresno, California 93721, “**Attention:**
4 **Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone.**” The envelope shall be marked “Confidential Settlement
5 Statement.” Settlement statements shall arrive no later than **August 29, 2025**. Parties shall also
6 file a Notice of Submission of Confidential Settlement Statement (See Local Rule 270(d)).
7 Settlement statements **should not be filed** with the Clerk of Court **nor served on any other**
8 **party**. Settlement statements shall be clearly marked “Confidential” with the date and time of the
9 settlement conference indicated prominently thereon.

10 6. The confidential settlement statement shall be **no longer than five pages** in length,
11 typed or neatly printed, and include the following:

- 12 a. A brief statement of the facts of the case.
- 13 b. A brief statement of the claims and defenses, i.e., statutory or other grounds upon
14 which the claims are founded; a forthright evaluation of the parties’ likelihood of
15 prevailing on the claims and defenses; and a description of the major issues in
16 dispute.
- 17 c. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for further discovery, pretrial, and
18 trial.
- 19 d. The party’s position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a
20 history of past settlement discussions, offers, and demands.
- 21 e. A brief statement of each party’s expectations and goals for the settlement
22 conference, including how much a party is willing to accept and/or willing to pay.
- 23 f. If parties intend to discuss the joint settlement of any other actions or claims not in
24 this suit, give a brief description of each action or claim as set forth above,
25 including case number(s) if applicable.

26 7. If a settlement is reached at any point during the stay of this action, the parties shall
27 file a Notice of Settlement in accordance with Local Rule 160.
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8. **Defense counsel shall contact the Litigation Coordinator at the institution where Plaintiff is housed to determine whether the institution can accommodate a Zoom video appearance by Plaintiff at this date and time.**

9. The parties remain obligated to keep the Court informed of their current address at all times during the stay and while the action is pending. Any change of address must be reported promptly to the Court in a separate document captioned for this case and entitled “Notice of Change of Address.” See Local Rule 182(f).

10. A failure to follow these procedures may result in the imposition of sanctions by the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **July 30, 2025**

/s/ Gary S. Austin
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE